

BREAKING THE SILENCE

A publication of The Children's Assessment Center, a safe place serving Harris County's sexually abused children.

The mission of The Children's Assessment Center is to provide a professional, compassionate and coordinated approach to the treatment of sexually abused children and their families and to serve as an advocate for all children in our community.

Touching A Life Gala – *A Labor of Love*



Behind the Bench
The National Basketball Wives Association



Ladies of Behind the Bench with honoree Kelly Rowland of Destiny's Child.

"Touching a Life" was the theme for this year's gala benefiting The Children's Assessment Center.

Each year Behind the Bench – The National Basketball Wives Association selects a charity as the beneficiary of their annual gala which is held in conjunction with NBA All-Star Weekend. Houston's Mayor Bill White and County Judge Robert Eckels extended warm welcomes to both the NBA and The National Basketball Wives Association and saluted them for selecting an organization that focuses on the healing of innocent victims.

The evening commenced with a VIP Reception sponsored by Moët Hennessey USA and Lucho. Guests in attendance included Kelly Rowland of Destiny's Child, Roy Marsh, Donella and Otis Thorpe, June and Virgil Waggoner, Sandra and Purvis Short, Kristina and Theo Ratliff, Yolanda Green and Britney Benjamin, Linda Lorelle and Lou Gregory, Jenine and Juwan Howard.

The Touching a Life Gala, held in the Legends Ballroom of the InterContinental Houston Hotel, was one of a handful of events that kicked off the NBA All-Star Weekend. This year's gala lived up to its billing as a premier event of the weekend. The event was a

roaring success and why not – some of Houston's greatest supporters were in attendance. The sponsors for the evening included Leslie Alexander and the Houston Rockets, I.W. Marks, Elara Diamonds, John P. McGovern Foundation, Roy Marsh and Everyone's Internet, the Charlie Thomas Family, The

Children's Assessment Center Foundation, Citigroup Private Bank, Toyota, NIKE, Sterling Bank, Houston's WB, National Basketball Association, Tim Thomas Shed Light Foundation, Edward & Charrisse Jordan and many more.

Master of Ceremonies, Flex Alexander, Bronx, NY-born and raised actor/comedian set the stage for the evening. The evening's



Honoree, Kelly Rowland & Gala Chair, Sandra Short.



Kristina Ratliff presents award to Honoree and CAC Board Member, Roy Marsh.

program included welcoming remarks from Deborah A. Williams, Ph.D., Founder of Behind the Bench, a delectable dinner, special recognition of Kelly Rowland of Destiny's Child and Houston businessman and philanthropist

Hello Everyone,



Elaine Stolte accepts the Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus Award from Congressman Ted Poe in Washington D.C.

Victim's Rights Caucus. It was a true honor for me to receive this award in honor of the memory of Ed Stout, the Director of Aid for Victims of Crime of St. Louis, Missouri, one of the nation's three oldest victim assistance organizations, who passed away in 2005. Ed Stout was a steadfast and compassionate advocate for victims of crime.

The Congressional Victim's Rights Caucus was established in 2005 to represent and advocate before the United States Congress and the Administration on behalf of victims. The Caucus has been instrumental in saving the Victims of Crime Act fund, ensuring the safety of children through the Children's Safety Act, and promoting a strong, unified voice for victims of crime. Congressman Poe (Texas) founded and co-chairs the Caucus along with co-chair Representative Jim Costa (California) and Congresswoman Katherine Harris (Florida).

It was heartwarming to know that all of the incredible work being done here in Houston and Harris County is being acknowledged nationally. The

CAC's unique Public-Private Partnership, with elected officials, County Judge Robert Eckels, our four County Commissioners and our Foundation Board of Directors continue to demonstrate that the sexually abused children of Harris County, Texas are a high priority for both



Harris County Judge Robert Eckels presents a Proclamation to CAC Board Member Jay Comeaux, President of Stanford Group Company, and Elaine Stolte announcing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and thanking Stanford Group Company for their generous support on behalf of victims of crime.

government and the private sector. We have much to be proud of here in Texas and it is encouraging to know that the hard work by our staff and partners continues to be commended. I am grateful to Congressman and CAC Board Member Ted Poe for recognizing our advocacy center and the accomplishments we have made on behalf of victims of crime. Thank you Congressman Poe, we're glad you're in Washington!

Take care,
Elaine Stolte, Executive Director
elaine_stolte@cac.co.harris.tx.us

(continued from cover story)

Roy Marsh of Everyones Internet for their countless and generous charitable contributions and a fabulous fashion show produced by Her Game 2 Productions of New York. Celebrity models included Ciara, Rashard Lewis, Miss Texas USA 2006 – Lauren Lanning, Miss Fitness USA – Madison Chase, Nick Anderson, Rodney Hampton, Avery Johnson, Terrell Owens and the wives and husbands of Behind the Bench. For the finale the ladies of Behind the Bench were joined by their husbands while they elegantly sashayed down the runway.

"The Touching a Life Gala has been a labor of love by the members of Behind the Bench and The Children's Assessment Center", says Sandra Evans Short aka KRIV-TV Fox 26's Erin Anthony and event chair.

Thank you Charisse Jordan, President of Behind the Bench and Sandra Short, event chair and all the wonderful ladies of Behind the Bench for selecting The Children's Assessment Center as this year's beneficiary. The new relationships forged by this union are too innumerable to count and the national exposure to the fight against child sexual abuse too invaluable to measure. You have truly made a difference in the lives of our children.



CAC Board Member Phyllis Williams, Foundation Board President Yolanda Green, Honorees Kelly Rowland & Roy Marsh, Elaine Stolte, CAC Director of Development Susan Williams & CAC Event Coordinator Lisa Bourgoyne.



Gala honorees, Kelly Rowland of Destiny's Child & CAC Board Member Roy Marsh.

April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

This was the first candlelight vigil for The CAC and several community leaders came out to support our efforts to raise awareness of child sexual abuse.



CAC therapist's son, Lucas, age 5.

The Children's Assessment Center kicked off Child Abuse Prevention Month with a candlelight vigil on March 31, 2006. The Reverend William A. Lawson delivered a very inspirational message to guests who were later serenaded by the melodic music from The Champion Sisters and Cordia Anderson-Hopkins. This was the first candlelight vigil for The CAC and several community leaders came out to support our efforts to raise awareness of child sexual abuse. Also in attendance were Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, CAC Board President Yolanda Green, Representatives from Congressman Al Green's office, Father Anthony Bozeman of Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church, Board Member Rachel Capote Bristow and a host of CAC employees and friends.

Reverend Lawson gave tribute to the various events celebrated during the month of April and reflected on the importance of Child Abuse Prevention Month and why we

raise awareness of child sexual abuse. Following the message so eloquently delivered by Reverend Lawson, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee presented the Certificate of Congressional Recognition to The CAC for their efforts on helping to keep our children safe and our parents informed.

EMPOWERING CHILDREN TO PROTECT THEMSELVES, sponsored by Stanford Group Company, was the theme of our Child Abuse Prevention program. Parents and children arrived at The CAC every Saturday during the month of April, to participate in the education and prevention classes. Our goal was to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and empower children and adults to protect themselves through education. Research shows that CAC's are regarded as community leaders and experts in the area of child abuse. With that said, The Children's Assessment Center provided workshops entitled: P.S. It's My Body, Dynamics of Sexual Abuse and Reporting Laws, Internet Safety, The WHO Program Puppet Show and a demonstration from the Kick Start program teaching children the importance of self defense.

Our parents have requested that we do it again next year so stay tuned!!!

CAC Development Coordinator Sharyn Malatok & son Macky



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee with Rev. Lawson as she presents the Certificate of Congressional Recognition to Elaine Stolte for The CAC's efforts to keep our children safe and our parents informed.



Lauren Lanning, Miss Texas USA 2006, met with children receiving services at The CAC during Child Abuse Prevention Month.



CAC Director of Therapy & Psychological Services, Dr. Lawrence Thompson Jr. & Supervisor of Interviewing Services, Tammy Urban



Bikers Against Child Abuse



The Champion Sisters serenade candlelight vigil guests.



Rev. Lawson & CAC Assistant Director, Kathy Wells

BEHIND THE BENCH PRESENTS

TOUCHI



[illegible]

Children's Project



Lawrence Thompson, Jr., Ph.D.
Director of Therapy & Psychological Services

During Child Abuse Prevention Month, CAC clinicians gave their child clients the opportunity to express their thoughts and feelings about child sexual abuse in the form of statements written on silhouettes. The project has proven itself to be both rewarding and therapeutic to those involved. The children have expressed pride in the power of their self-expression, as well as the sincere hope that their words can make a difference in the lives of others. I believe we all owe them a great deal of gratitude for sharing aspects of their personal experience and helping us all understand the impact of child sexual abuse and the importance of treatment and prevention.

When it happened to me, I was sad and afraid because it made me feel wrong and uncomfortable. I want everyone to know that no child should be hurt in any way. And it is also ok to feel mad at that person. If you told you're very brave... just like me.

10-year old
sexual assault
victim



Please Take Note!

- 8th Annual CAC Protecting Texas Children's Conference
 - Monday, July 31- August 1, 2006
 - Hilton Houston Post Oak Hotel
 - For information: Karen Kennard (713) 986-3530
- Legislative Reception
 - Thursday, October 19, 2006
 - Children's Assessment Center
 - For information: Kathy Wells (713) 986-3487
- 14th Annual Van Chancellor Golf Classic
 - Thursday, October 26, 2006
 - Wildcat Golf Club
 - For information: Susan K. Williams (713) 986-3483
- Bubbles at Mirkovich Art Gallery
 - Champagne Tasting
 - Incredible Art
 - PRICELESS
 - More details coming soon!


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VAN CHANCELLOR
GOLF CLASSIC

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Susan K. Williams
(713) 986-3483
skwilliams@cac.hctx.net

"All children deserve to grow up in a safe and loving environment. Won't you join me to ensure that we all do what we can to make this happen?"

V. Williams

Thursday
October 26, 2006
Wildcat Golf Club

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